(c) the progress made/decision taken on suggestions to increase number of dwelling units to four in plots of sizes 100-250 sq. metres keeping in view the existing reality of lakhs of such units all over Delhi; and

(d) the status of report of Task Force on rehabilitation colonies which was to look into these issues?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government had issued revised norms for floor area ratio, number of dwelling units, height, etc. in respect of plotted residential development *vide* notification dated 23.7.1988. The draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021, proposes further liberalization in respect of number of dwelling units to be permitted in plotted residential development. The draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021 was published in the newspapers on 8.4.2005 inviting suggestions/objections from the public. About 7,000 responses have been received, which have been referred to the Board of Enquiry and Hearing set up by the Delhi Development Authority, under the statutory provisions for finalization of the Master Plan. Suggestions regarding the norms for plotted residential development and increased FAR and height will be considered in the finalization of MPD-2021.

(d) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that the Task Force regarding Rehabilitation Colonies has prepared its draft Report, which was considered in the meeting held on 10th October, 2005. Comments received from the concerned departments have now been taken up for consideration before finalization of the Report.

Interest rate on Seamens Provident Fund

*386. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seamens Provident Fund attracts less interest than the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering the issue of making the rate of interest uniform;

(d) if so, the details of the measures being taken; and

(e) if, not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till 2000-2001 the interest rate of Seamen's Provident Fund (SPF) and Employees Provident Fund (EPF) were comparable. From the year 2000-2001 interest rate declared by SPF has been less than the interest rate declared by EPF as per the following details:

Year	Rate of interest of SPF	Rate of interest of EPF
2000-2001	11%	11.5%
2001-2002	9.5%	11.25%
2002-2003	9%	9.5%
2003-2004	8%	9.5%
2004-2005	6%	9%
2005-2006	5.5%	Not decided

The lower interest rate in SPF is attributable to the following reasons:

(i) Flow of fund under EPF Scheme is regular which facilitates advance planning of investment whereas flow of fund to SPF scheme is uncertain and unforeseen due to employment of seamen on contract basis and Provident Fund dues are remitted only at the time of sign off. Thus, EPF is in a better prosition to take decision of investments than the SPF.

(ii) The declining trend of rate of interest on the investment in the market.

(iii) The effect of Security Scam involves Rs. 92.78 crores. On this amount, no interest is being accrued, while the seamen are paid interest on the contribution.

(c) to (e) According to the SPF Scheme, 1966, the rate of interest on the provident fund account of members is to be determined by the Government in consultation with the Board of Trustees. In determining the rate of

interest, the Government shall satisfy itself that there is no over-drawal on the interest suspense account as a result of the debit thereto of the inerest credited to the accounts of the members. Keeping this in view, the Government have been deciding the rate of interest from time to time. Therefore, it may not be possible to make the interest rates uniform.

Mapping of resources in remote and inaccessible areas of NER

†*387. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mapping of resources in the remote and inaccessible areas of North-East is being done through satellites by using remote sensing techique;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government are considering to make any special provision to carry out this task; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Satellite-based Remote Sensing technology is being effectively used for mapping of natural resources in the country including the remote and inaccessible areas of North Eastern Region. Department of Space has established North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NE-SAC) at Shillong with state-of-the-art infrastructure for space technology utilisation. NE-SAC has carried out a number of projects using remote sensing technology in the area of natural resources management, such, as Integrated Development of Horticulture, Biodiversity characterization at landscape level, Rapid Assessment Survey of Hydro-electric Project Sites, Integraed Development of Satar Mianar Hour Wetlan Rice Ecosystem, Citrus Decline Study, landslide hazard zonation mapping of Shillong-Silchar-Aizwal etc.

The outcome of these activities is being provided to respective State Governments in the region for optimum utilisation of natural resources. In addition, State Remort Sensing Applications Centre in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura are also carrying out similar projects of relvenace to States, themselves, using satellite-based remote sensing technology.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.